

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

LOUISIANA BOARD
OF ETHICS

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

DOCKET NO.

IN THE MATTER OF

LESTER THOMAS

AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2014-502

CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics voted on May 14, 2015, to and does hereby file the following charge:

I.

Lester Thomas was the successful candidate for the office of Chief of Police, City of Winnsboro in the Parish of Franklin, State of Louisiana, in the March 27, 2010 election.

II.

The office of Chief of Police, City of Winnsboro is an “any other” level office¹. La. R.S.18:1484(2) requires each candidate for an “any other” level office to file campaign finance disclosure reports if the candidate receives contributions in excess of \$200 or makes expenditures in excess of \$2,500.

III.

La. R.S. 18:1495.4A provides that the candidate is responsible for the filing of reports of all information required by the Supervisory Committee at the times required by the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA).

¹ “Any other” level office is defined as a level of office that does not meet the criteria for a “major” or “district” office.

IV.

La. R.S. 18:1495.4D(1) provides that if the final report of a candidate for an election shows a deficit or surplus, the candidate shall file supplemental reports with the supervisory committee of all information required in R.S. 18:1495.5. Such report shall be filed annually no later than February 15th and shall be complete through the preceding December 31st. Such a supplemental report shall be filed each year until a report has been filed which shows no deficit and until any surplus campaign funds have been disposed of in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1505.2(I).

V.

Mr. Thomas was elected to the office of Chief of Police, City of Winnsboro, Louisiana in the March 27, 2010 election. His term of office ended on June 30, 2014.

VI.

Mr. Thomas filed a 2012 supplemental campaign finance report on February 20, 2013, in connection with the March 27, 2010 election, indicating a surplus balance of \$475.45. No reports have been filed with the supervisory committee by Mr. Thomas since the 2012 supplemental campaign finance disclosure report.

VII.

La. R.S. 18:1505.1(A) provides that failure to submit the reports required by the CFDA shall constitute a violation of the CFDA. Failure to submit any such report within three days after the final date for filing shall be presumptive evidence of intent not to file the report. La. R.S. 18:1505.1(B) provides that failure to submit the reports required by the CFDA at the time required shall constitute a violation of the CFDA.

VIII.

As a "any other" level office candidate who was currently serving in an elected office, Mr. Thomas was required to file a supplemental campaign finance reports in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1495.4D(3) covering the 2013 calendar year by February 15, 2014.

IX.

La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(2)(a)(iii) provides that an automatic late fee of \$40 per day, up to a maximum of \$1,000 be assessed for each day the report is not timely filed.

X.

On August 14, 2014 the Board's staff issued Mr. Thomas a *Late Fee Assessment Order*, ordering him to pay a late fee of \$1,000 for the failure to timely file his 2013 supplemental campaign finance disclosure report.

XI.

La. R.S. 18:1505.4(4)(b) provides that in addition to any penalties that may be imposed by this Section or any other law, the supervisory committee may impose on any person required to file such a report who has not filed such report by the eleventh day after such report is due, after an adjudicatory hearing by an adjudicatory panel of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board conducted in accordance with the Code of Governmental Ethics, with notice to the party who is the subject of the hearing, an additional civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars.

XII.

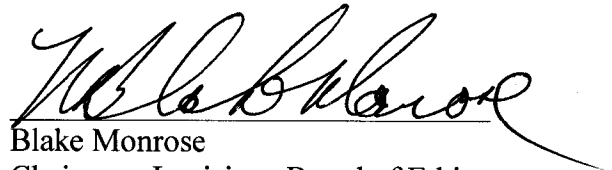
Based on the foregoing facts, the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may conduct a hearing to determine if Mr. Thomas filed his 2013 supplemental campaign finance disclosure report over 11 days late which would subject Mr. Thomas to additional penalties up to \$10,000 as provided for in La. R.S. 18:1505.4(4)(b).

XIII.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C(3)(b)(iv), the Board designates Jennifer Land and Michael Dupree as the Board's trial attorneys in this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board conduct a hearing to determine if Mr. Thomas filed his 2013 supplemental campaign finance disclosure report over 11 days late which would subject Mr. Thomas to additional penalties up to \$10,000 as provided for in La. R.S. 18:1505.4(4)(b).

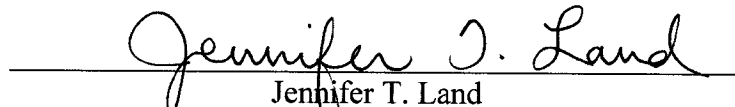
[SIGNATURE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]



Blake Monroe
Chairman, Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Telephone: (225) 219-5600
Facsimile: (225) 381-7271

CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been forwarded to the Respondent by registered/certified mail in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141E(1)(a), on this 15th day of May, 2015.



Jennifer T. Land
Trial Attorney

SERVICE INFORMATION:

Lester Thomas
2608 Baldwin Drive
Winnsboro, LA 71295